

Application No.: 10/802,205
Office Action dated: August 22, 2006
Response to Office Action dated: November 7, 2006

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REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending and remain for consideration. Claim 1 is amended herein. The Specification is also being amended herein to correct a printing error regarding the description of a predetermined period of time.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kashihara et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,571,688). Claims 2-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Kashihara et al. is directed to a wire bonding apparatus in which a supersonic oscillator is provided for applying a supersonic vibration to a capillary through the medium of a tool arm at the time of bonding. The supersonic oscillator is controlled for the adjustment of the oscillation time and/or amplitude of supersonic oscillation to regularize the ball shape, while monitoring the deformation of a ball at the end of a wire by means of a gap sensor which detects the relative positions of the tool arm and a tool lifter arm.

The wire bonder of Kashihara et al. of course comprises a bondhead, a power module supplying electrical power for operating a drive of the bondhead, a control program and further elements. Kashihara et al. discloses a counter 26E that counts signals E22 and feeds the CPU with a count value indicating the position of the capillary (col. 5, last line to col. 6, line 9). In contrast to this, the present application discloses a timer configured for opening the power switch after a predetermined period of time has elapsed wherein the predetermined period is sufficient to complete the current bond cycle. Therefore, the configuration and functions performed by the counter of Kashihara et al. and the timer of the present application are completely different.

Kashihara et al. further discloses a power switch. The power switch is the ordinary switch that connects the wire bonder to the mains. It is not a power switch

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configured for controlling the supply of electrical power by the power module to the drive, and it is not an emergency switch.

The control program of Kashihara et al. is used to control the wire bonder, but it is not programmed to complete the current bond cycle and then suspend the further wiring upon activation of the emergency switch.

Therefore, Kashihara et al. does not disclose

- at least one emergency switch,
- a power switch configured for controlling the supply of electrical power by the power module to the drive,
- a control program that upon activation of the emergency switch completes the current bond cycle and then suspends the further wiring, and
- a timer configured for opening the power switch after a predetermined period of time has elapsed wherein the predetermined period is sufficient to complete the current bond cycle.

From the above it follows that

- the structural elements of claim 1 of the present application define a wire bonder that structurally differ from the wire bonder disclosed by Kashihara et al., and
- the structural elements listed in claim 1 have different functions.

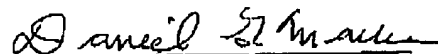
For an anticipation rejection to be appropriate, each and every element or limitation in a rejected claim must be disclosed in a single prior art reference used in the claim rejection. Because Kashihara et al. does not disclose each and every element as recited in claim 1 of the present application, it cannot be maintained that Kashihara et al. anticipates claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn and claim 1 allowed. Moreover, because claims 2-24 each ultimately depend from and thereby incorporate the limitations of claim 1, claims 2-24 should be allowed for at least the reasons set forth for claim 1.

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-24 are in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

No fees or deficiencies in fees are believed to be owed. However, authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 13-0235 in the event any such fees are owed.

Respectfully submitted,

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